

Providence Nov. 10th 1778.

Dear Sir,

Josiah H. Benton Ed.
Feb. 24, 1939

Q
C

Captain Woodsey faithfully

delivered me your kind & short Epistle, it gave me much pleasure, and I feel myself honoured by the indulgence.

By all that's good I believe I am the most fortunate of mortals, — a Letter this moment from my good General — "What says he? By Heaven the thing I want." M^{rs}

"Greene is going for Boston and Newbury-
"Port and has requested your accompanying
"Let I have no objection, provided it is agree-
"able to you. Agreeable to me, yes and thank
you too — Look-o — if spelt right! NOVO

Know ye whome it may concern
that on this day week, to wit, Monday, I William
Bledget — Major will with the Blessing of
Di

Divine Providence greet my Friends well
in Boston, therefore be it Remembered.

In consequence of this Letter madam
Thomas (my servant) has got his particular or-
ders to have my Buckskin breeches neatly
cleaned and my Spouse is in a few moments
to patch a Hole in ~~my~~ my coat, opposite to
the one Mr. Fushing mended for me, after
which it is to go thro' a severe dressing
with Buff-Ball and Tea-leaves, in the mean
time I shall keep house while all these
preparations are going on, yet however I
hope by Sunday morning to be in readiness
and stalk out like a smart Fox, from a
Band-Box. — it is cursed hard I can't get
a new coat — will madam suffer me sit
with her in the back parlor in this patched
condition — I'll agree to be put behind the
Door if any Stranger comes in, or turned
out into the yard, while they remain.

Woodsey told me about the little hop
at your House, my patience how I wish to
to have been with you.

You may tell Mr Fushing that I
shall bring my drawing utensils with me,
and if I have time shall scrawl out some
thing or other - let Polly make herself
perfectly easy, she shall be forgoth.

What if Mr Gace should be taken
sick? or the Phetion break on the Road -
one of the Horses foundered, or in other words
some cursed accident happen to prevent
my realizing what I have so happily
anticipated - Ah! poor creatures, we
are all liable, the ^{hour} cometh when we least
expect, and the height of our joys sullied
by some fatality or other - desperate
suz - ~~law~~ is for me, what are we all come
ing to - Brightour Fushing give us a glass
of your excellent wine - a Little Porter or

or some Rum and Water; but I say we
are all liable, here to day and gone tomo-
-row — Madam my service to you — Miss
Polly yours — How strange the vicissitudes
of this life, born to trouble fair and strife.
If you think that I mean to set up for a
Poet — you are mistaken, that is a greater
task than any of the Family ever took up
— on them I assure you Sir, so I'de have
you to know if you are a mind to, and
say you may if you are a mind to, I
dont intend to be the first shining genius
in the Poetical way in our Family — no —
no — let Cozier Nathan try first, and if he
succeeds tolerably perhaps I may go part-
-nership with him — how would it sound
Nathan & William Blodget — Poet Laurents
to the Congress — by George I think it would
carry as good a twang, as Tate and Brady.
Well as you are at liberty to
read

the first sheet, or any part of it— if you
are a mind to, or let it alone if you
are a mind to, so you are at equal
liberty to peruse what I am going further
more to say. — Let me ask where my
friend and night-walker is, How does
she do? it is a little odd that I should write
Letters and never ask after her or even
send my compliments, but as she carries
a good-natured face, a scribble ~~Hand~~^{Head}, and
a susceptible Heart, I think I may hope for
forgiveness— my regards to her— Sarah I
mean, our New Boston Friend.

A Flag just from New Port
brings 70 Families from that place, and
say the Enemy are going off, that the French
have ~~have~~ taken Antigua, — Mount Marat,
Nevis, and St. Christopher Island from the
Britains, its generally thought that they
will destroy New York and New-Port when
they leave it.

I shall beg the favour a Line
by the earliest opportunity - and with
my kind regards to Madam and Polly
am with esteem your Friend & H^{ble}

Serv^t

William Pledge

W^m Pledge